Course Description:
Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935) is best known for her short story “The Yellow Wallpaper,” and her novel *Herland*. These works have made her a well-known early feminist figure. Her body of work, however, is much broader than these stories suggest and her influence on the feminist movement continues to this day. This course will involve reading some of her fiction in the context of her philosophical non-fiction. Texts will include *Women and Economics, Human Work*, and *The Man-Made World*. The course will also explore the connections between her work and the broader philosophical conversations that were emerging in the U.S. at the time she was writing and the relevance of her work today.

Texts:
*Charlotte Perkins Gilman Reader*, ed. Ann J. Lane (University of Virginia, 1999)
Other readings on Canvas.

Assignments:
Readings: You are responsible for all of the required readings each week. In addition to these readings, you are expected to pursue secondary readings on the course material in support of your own interests, the précis, and the final paper.

Discussion Leadership and Précis: Each participant will sign up to take special responsibility for one day of the course. On that day, you will be especially well-prepared to answer questions about the readings and introduce topics for class discussion. You will also select one of the primary readings and write a short précis on that reading. The précis should summarize the argument of the work and discuss it in relation to an organizing interest (connecting it to your paper topic is a good idea). The précis should be 800-1000 words in length. The précis will be worth 10% of your grade and your time as discussion leader will be worth 10%.

Critical Reading Questions (CRQs): Each student will write three CRQ’s. You may choose when to write these, but you may not write one the same day you are scheduled to be discussion leader. They are due to me on Canvas at least 24 hours before the class meeting in which we will be discussing that reading. These are one-page (single spaced) papers in which you raise a
question prompted by the reading and then respond and discuss. These are not to be simple factual questions, but questions of implication, interpretation, consistency, and the like.

**Paper Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography:** In the 7th week, you will submit a prospectus of your final paper with two components: (1) a 2-3 page detailed description of the topic and outline of your proposed argument; and (2) an annotated bibliography of at least five primary or peer-reviewed secondary texts that you intend to consult (in addition to texts assigned for the course), and (3) the Gilman text that will anchor the paper. Each annotation should be about 250 words and include a summary of the book or article as well as an indication of its relevance for your project. Your prospectus must receive my approval in order for your final term paper to be accepted. The prospectus will be worth 10% of your final course grade.

**Term Paper:** Your term paper is on a topic of your choice and should be 2500-3000 words. In general, papers should focus on materials read for class, but your papers must also make use of one of Gilman’s books in its entirety and of secondary sources beyond the course readings. Your paper will be worth 50% of your grade. **Final papers are due on Thursday, March 17th at 2:00 in the department office.**

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance is required. For every unexcused absence after one, you will lose 1/3 of a grade. Class will focus on guided discussions of the material so students need to be on time and prepared to participate. At a minimum this means having completed the reading, thought about it, having questions ready, and listening actively (rather than just waiting one’s turn to speak or dominating the conversation). Paper presentations will be included here.

**Grading:**

- Précis: 15%
- Discussion Leader: 10%
- CRQ’s: 15%
- Paper Prospectus/bibliography: 10%
- Final paper: 40%
- Participation: 10%

**PLEASE NOTE:** Failure to complete any assignment results in automatic failure of the class.

**Academic Honesty**

Students who engage in acts of academic dishonesty, which in this class would mean cheating on an exam or paper, will receive a failing grade for the assignment and may fail the class. For a full description of forms of academic dishonesty, please see: https://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct.aspx

**Schedule:**

Note that the schedule of readings is subject to change during the quarter. All changes will be announced in advance during class. If you have questions about the assignments, requirements, or subject matter, please let me know. If you have special needs due to a disability, please talk with me as soon as possible so that your needs can be addressed.
January

Watch Triangle Factory Fire (1911) video before first class.
http://video.pbs.org/video/1817898383/

Being Trapped
(T) 5 “Can a Man Hating Feminist be a Pragmatist,” Charlene Haddock Seigfried—on Canvas
(R) 7 CPG, Intro.-ch. 2, “Beginnings” (xi-xxii, 3-56)
(T) 12 CPG, chs. 3-4, “I Am not the Combing Sort” and “A Life with no Beyond!” (57-108)
NFR, Preface-ch. 1 (ix-xi, 1-24)
(R) 14 CPG, ch. 5, “Begin New” (111-137)
Reader—“The Yellow Wallpaper” (3-20)

Working for Liberation
(T) 19 CPG, ch. 6, “The Duty Farthest” (138-171)
NFR, ch. 2 (25-83)—“Human Nature,” “Our Place Today,” “The Labor Movement,”
“What the People’s Party Means,” “The Ethics of Woman’s Work,” “First Class in Sociology”
(R) 21 CPG, ch. 7, “A Woman-at-Large” (175-200)
Reader—“Mr. Peeble’s Heart”; “What Diantha Did” (107-115, 123-140)
(T) 26 CPG, ch. 8, “Living and Loving” (201-237)
NFR, ch. 3 (84-121)—excerpts from Women and Economics and Concerning Children
(R) 28 CPG, ch. 9, “A Cleared Path” (241-264)
NFR, ch. 3 (121-168)—“Superfluous Women,” The Home, Human Work, “Domestic
Economy”

February

Movements
(T) 2 CPG, ch. 10, “Readjustment” (265-285)
NFR, ch. 3 (168-188)—“Why Cooperative Housekeeping Fails,” “A Suggestion on the
Negro Problem,” “Feminism”
Weinbaum "Writing Feminist Genealogy: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, racial nationalism, and
the reproduction of maternalist feminism"
http://search.proquest.com/docview/233179862?pq-origsite=gscholar
(R) 4 NFR, ch4 (188-247)—“Statements of Purpose,” The Man-Made World, “Should Women
Use Violence,” “Our Brains and What Ails Them,” “On Ellen Key and the Woman Movement,”
“Education for Motherhood”
Reader—“If I Were a Man” (32-38) and “An Unnatural Mother” (57-65)
**Mothers, Wives, and Pacifism**

(T) 9  CPG, ch. 11, “The Forerunner” (286-318);  
Reader—“Making A Change,” “An Honest Woman,” “Turned,” “The Widow’s Might” (66-106)

(R) 11 NFR, ch. 4 (247-270)—“The New Mothers of a New World,” “Birth Control,” “Maternity Benefits and Reformers,” “Do We Want a Political Party for Women?,” “The National Women’s Party,” “The Present Election,” “A Word with the Pacifists on How to End this War,” “To My Real Readers”

**Gilman in Relationship With Others**

(T) 16  “Social Theory at the Early End of a Short Century,” Charles Lemert  
Sociological Theory, 1 July 1994, Vol.12(2), pp.140-152  

Vol. 90, No. 1 (Spring, 1997), pp. 47-64  

(R) 18  **Prospectus and bibliography due**

“Behind the "barred windows": The Imprisonment of Women's Bodies and Minds in Nineteenth-Century America, Michelle Mock Murton,” *The Women in Literature and Life Assembly* Vol. 4, Fall 1995  
[http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/old-WILLA/fall95/Murton.html](http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/old-WILLA/fall95/Murton.html)

**Facing the Future**

(T) 23 CPG, ch. 12, “Begin Again” (319-350)

(R) 25 NFR, ch. 5 (271-312)—“The New Generation of Women,” “Is America Too Hospitable?,”  *His Religions and Hers*, “Where are the Pre-War Radicals”, “Socialist Psychology”

**March**

(T) 1  CPG, chs. 13-14, “A Returned Exile” “The Stepping Off Place” (353-304)  
Reader—“Moving A Mountain,” “Herland,” “With Her in Ourland” (178-208),

(R) 3 NO CLASS—work on papers

(T) 8 Paper presentations

(R) 10 Paper presentations

**Papers due Thursday, March 17th at 2:00.**